

Letter and enclosure from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, December 17, 1877, with transcript

P. O. Box 518, Brantford, Ont., Can., Home, December 17th, 77. My dear Alec,

We have to acknowledge a copy of the "Boston Times," a rather "Fun"-ny publication, and also a card announcing the death of Mrs. Hubbard's Mother. I suppose Mrs. McCurdy has long been an invalid, and therefore her decease will not have been unexpected to her friends.

Was she very aged? Give our kind regards and sympathy to Mrs. Hubbard. I do not know if this event will make any alteration in the plans of your friends or of your own; we may hear from you in the course of a week. Christmas is very near now. It wants only a week and will not be like Christmas if you are away. The family are all to meet at our house, including Charley, Lillie, her husband, and Carrie's household. I hope the weather will be a little milder, for just now it is excessively cold, and has been for some days, several degrees below Zero at night and a little above during the day. We are however thank God, all well, and much warmer than our friends in Town, who do not know how to keep themselves comfortable. I feel fidgety about you and hope you have sufficient warm clothing. Mary heard yesterday from her old servant Susan, dated 28th of November, and she mentioned having seen your Uncle Edward on the 23rd. Thought him so like Uncle James that she would have known him anywhere.

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Frances was not with him. You will probably hear soon, the above is all we know of his movements. Yesterday we received an invitation to a party, or ball (printed on common brown paper) given by some of the Brantford gentlemen, called a "hard time party". Plain

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and economical dresses are recommended, and express wagons and wheelbarrows are to be in attendance! I fancy there are to be a series of parties. Several matters have been mentioned both by Papa and me that we wished you to answer, but you have taken no notice of them. All join in love to you and Mabel.

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell. (Monday) I have detained this till today, thinking there might be a note from you detailing your plans, but there was none. The weather is still fearfully cold, and the papers give accounts of storms and unusual cold all over Canada. There were no telegraphic items from the States, so we cannot tell if a similar state of the atmosphere prevails there. Whenever you travel take especial care and run no risks. Wherever you are at Christmas, we hope it will be a happy one. We hope Mrs. Hubbard is well, and that Gertrude has benefitted by her trip. Give our love to Mabel and say how much we enjoyed reading her letters. The funeral of Mrs. McCurdy has of course taken place by this time. Once more adieu. I shall not write again till after I have heard from you, not knowing where you may be next week.

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We have never had so many fowls frozen before, as during the last week.

E. G. B.

DECEMBER 18, 1876. RE-ANNEXATION TO GREAT BRITAIN.

The New York *Tribune* says:—The intense disgust of certain Democrats in Louisiana at the failure of “reform,” and the consequent destruction of their only surviving hope for free institutions, has found expression in the following petition, which has received several signatures, and is not unlikely to be presented to Congress:—

To the Honourable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America at Washington assembled:—

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The undersigned citizens of the United States of America, having in view the present and prospective dangers ensuing from our form of government, beg respectfully to petition your honourable bodies that Commissioners be appointed with full authority to arrange the terms of a treaty of reconciliation with Great Britain, settling all causes of estrangement which have unhappily existed for the past century between the two countries, to the end that the people of a common origin may enjoy the natural fraternity to which they are entitled, and the civil and religious liberty which our ancestors have won in leading the progressive civilization of the Caucasian race for the past thousand years.”